

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
M I D - S U S S E X A R E A

1970

**RURAL DISTRICT
OF
CUCKFIELD**

ty
D. M. RICHARDSON
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.I.H.

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By

D. M. RICHARDSON
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.I.H.

Charles Clarke (Haywards Heath) Ltd.

1971

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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CUCKFIELD

REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Health Department,
Oaklands,
Haywards Heath.

Tel. No. Haywards Heath 50301.

October, 1971

To the Chairman and Members of the Cuckfield Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the year 1970.

The corrected birth rate again showed a slight upward trend which, when combined with the low death rate, gave a natural increase in population of 65.

There was a marked fall in the infant mortality rate (11.93) compared with the previous year, but, as five out of six of the recorded deaths in infants took place in the first week of life and were associated with a parallel increase in the still birth rate, the perinatal mortality rate for the year also increased; rates of 17.75 and 16.79 being recorded for the Cuckfield Rural and Mid-Sussex areas respectively.

Expressed as a percentage of total live births, the illegitimacy rate was 6.96. There were no maternal deaths during the year.

The number of deaths due to cancer of the lung and bronchus (24) represents 5.48% of total deaths, nearly 2% less than that recorded in 1969.

IMMUNISATION

Owing to computerisation of immunisation records during the year by the County Health Department, no figures are available for 1970.

Influenza—Immunisation of Staff

In November multivalent vaccine was given to sixty-nine members of the staff.

Rubella (German Measles) Vaccine Trial

During the year I was informed by Dr. J. A. G. Watson, Principal School Medical Officer, that early in 1970 his Department had co-operated with the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children in a scheme for Rubella vaccination of 12 to 14-year-old girls in the Haywards Heath area. It would appear that all the 94 susceptible girls who were vaccinated had developed a satisfactory antibody response. As a result of this clinical trial the County have decided to make the vaccine freely available to all girls between their 11th and 13th birthdays. At present priority is given to girls in their third year of secondary education.

INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATES OF VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX AND CHOLERA

During the year 2,521 certificates were authenticated by the Health Department.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

One hundred and thirteen cases of infectious disease were notified during the year and, of the total notifications received, 87 were attributed to measles, 11 to infective jaundice and 7 to food poisoning.

Food Poisoning:

(1) *Salmonella wien* and *Salmonella typhimurium*

On the 29th September I was informed by a neighbouring M.O.H. that *Salmonella wien* had been isolated from a patient in Crawley Hospital who is normally resident in the Cuckfield Rural District. It would appear that the patient, who is a young married woman, had been admitted to hospital with a history of vomiting and diarrhoea of two days' duration.

On further enquiry by the Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector at the patient's home, it was learned that the patient's husband and parents-in-law were involved in the administration and daily routine of a large village bakery with a branch in the Urban District. Immediate family contacts of the case were excluded from food handling pending bacteriological screening of stool specimens and arrangements were also made for the submission of specimens from all employees at the village bakery. In due course the Laboratory reported that *Salmonella typhimurium* had been isolated from the patient's husband and father-in-law. Treatment was arranged by the family doctor and regular bacteriological surveillance of the staff was maintained by the Health Department until three consecutive negative specimens had been obtained from both carriers.

(2) *Salmonella stanley*

On the 1st September I was informed by a House Physician at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Sick Children that a child of six, normally resident in the Mid-Sussex area, was being discharged from the hospital whilst still a convalescent carrier of a *Salmonella* organism. It would appear that, in view of the father's occupation as a Butcher, specimens had already been submitted to the hospital laboratory at the instigation of the medical staff and, at the time of the boy's discharge from hospital, these were all negative.

Further specimens from the father were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory on the child's return home and on the 30th September I was informed that a *Salmonella* had been isolated. The Chief Public Health Inspector (C.U.D.C.) visited the shop immediately and informed the Butcher that his activities must be restricted to the office and that on no account should he work in the shop. Arrangements were made for the screening of three other members of the family together with the shop assistant. All were subsequently proved negative as a result of laboratory examination. In due course, following a series of negative specimens from the Butcher, he was allowed to resume normal duties at the shop. However, whilst the son remained a convalescent carrier, regular screening was continued for several months until three consecutive negative specimens had been obtained.

(3) *Salmonella* Infection in Calves

In early January the District Veterinary Officer reported that *Salmonella typhimurium* had been isolated from calves on a farm in the Rural District. The farm was visited by a member of the Public Health Inspectorate where-

upon it was learned that the farmer's wife and child had suffered from gastro-enteritis within the previous fourteen days at a time roughly coincident with the onset of disease in the calves. The usual warnings were given regarding the consumption of milk available from the two dairy cows at the farm, none of which was offered for general sale. Arrangements were made for the submission of stool specimens to the Public Health Laboratory from the farmer's family and an employee. In due course it was reported that *Salmonella typhimurium* had been isolated from the farmer's wife and subsequent phage typing of the organism showed that it had almost certainly been derived from the calves, possibly via contamination of raw milk consumed by the family.

The Veterinary Officer to a neighbouring farm supplying farm bottled milk (unpasteurised) to the general public was told of this incident in order that contact between the two farms, if any, might be kept to a minimum.

During the course of the year a total of fourteen outbreaks of *Salmonella* infection in cattle in the Mid-Sussex area was reported by the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Each incident was thoroughly investigated by the Public Health Inspectorate and in several instances it was considered necessary to carry out bacteriological checks on farm workers and their families.

Dysentery—*Shigella flexneri* type 2a

On the 18th May I was informed by the Brighton Public Health Department that a young married woman, who had recently returned from Nigeria with her husband to stay with her parents in the Rural District, had developed diarrhoea and vomiting during the journey home. It would appear that on arrival she had sought the advice of the family doctor in Brighton, who arranged for submission of a stool specimen to the Brighton Public Health Laboratory where *Shigella flexneri* was isolated in due course.

On investigation it was discovered that the victim's mother was Matron of a Brighton Nursing Home and it was necessary to arrange for screening pending bacteriological clearance in the actual case. Fortunately, with treatment, the case became negative quite rapidly and further supervision was unnecessary.

A Case of Typhoid Fever in the Mid-Sussex Area

In December a case of typhoid occurred on a medical ward in a local hospital. The patient, a young business man, had almost certainly acquired the infection as a result of consuming a shell fish meal at a waterfront restaurant in the Mediterranean area.

Following the establishment of a firm diagnosis arrangements were made for the screening of all staff who had been in contact with the case but, as the patient had been barrier nursed since admission, it was not considered necessary to place any restriction on new admissions to the ward pending the result of laboratory investigations. The patient was transferred to Foredown Isolation Hospital where, after some weeks, he made a complete recovery.

This episode only serves to emphasise the importance of travellers obtaining protection against typhoid by immunisation before venturing abroad including visits to Continental Europe.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SURVEY

The Unit visited Hassocks during May, 1970.

I am indebted to Dr. Rigden, the Director, for the following analysis of the figures resulting from the Survey.

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number examined	232	350	582
Abnormalities found :—			
Tuberculosis requiring occasional chest clinic supervision ..	2	—	2
Miscellaneous abnormalities ..	8	12	20

SWIMMING BATHS AND BATHING POOLS

There is only one public swimming pool in the area under my supervision. This open-air pool is situated in the southern half of the district. Mains water is used for filling at the beginning of the season and is treated at the pool by pressure filters, aeration and chlorination.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

Section 47:

This Section provides for the compulsory removal from their homes of elderly, infirm or incapacitated persons, who are not receiving proper care and attention. Such persons are often living on their own under poor and insanitary conditions and although it was not necessary to take formal action under this Section, several cases were investigated during the year.

W.R.V.S. MEALS ON WHEELS SERVICE

During 1970 a total of 12,257 meals was provided. Since the inception of this service in January, 1962, a total of 58,629 meals has been provided.

Great credit is due to the local W.R.V.S. for the administration and day-to-day running of this valuable service.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

During the year medical examinations were carried out for the following authorities :—

Cuckfield Rural District	7
Cuckfield Urban District	16
Burgess Hill Urban District	1
East Sussex County Council	98

I would like to express my thanks to Mr. Relf, Chief Public Health Inspector, for his help and co-operation in the work of the department and for the particulars which he has supplied for this report. I also wish to record my appreciation to other members of the staff for their loyal support during the year, particularly Mrs. Patten, my Secretary.

In conclusion I would like to thank members of the Council, particularly the Chairman and members of the Health and General Purposes Committee, for their support and also the officers and staff in other departments for their help during the year.

D. M. RICHARDSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

<i>Medical Officer of Health</i>	D. M. Richardson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.I.H., F.R.I.P.H.H.
<i>(Also Medical Officer of Health to Cuckfield Urban and Burgess Hill Urban Districts and Medical Officer (part-time) to East Sussex County Council)</i>	
<i>Honorary Consultant in Epidemiology and Clinical Assistant in Dermatology—Mid- Sussex Hospital Management Committee</i>	
<i>Chief Public Health Inspector</i> ..	R. S. Relf, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. <i>Qualified Inspector of Meat and Other Foods</i> <i>Qualified Housing Manager</i> <i>Qualified Building Inspector</i>
<i>Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector</i>	B. P. Darking, M.A.P.H.I. <i>Qualified Inspector of Meat and Other Foods</i>
<i>District Public Health Inspectors</i> ..	H. Sharp, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. <i>Qualified Inspector of Meat and Other Foods</i> R. J. Hossack, M.A.P.H.I. (Resigned 31.3.70) <i>Qualified Inspector of Meat and Other Foods</i>
<i>Secretary to the M.O.H. and Administrative Assistant</i>	Mrs. W. M. Patten, M.A.Med.Sec.
<i>Clerks to the M.O.H.</i>	Mrs. B. P. Westgate Miss S. Blanchard (Resigned 11.4.70) Miss L. Fletcher (Appointed 13.7.70)
<i>Secretary to the C.P.H.I.</i>	Miss I. Robbins (Resigned 26.3.70) Miss J. M. Woodland (Appointed 13.4.70)
<i>Clerk to the C.P.H.I.</i>	Miss G. Cassam (Resigned 15.5.70) Miss Y. R. M. Manning (Appointed 16.11.70)

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Summary of Statistics for the Years :

	1968	1969	1970
Area of the District in Acres	68,011	68,011	68,011
Population estimated to middle of year ..	37,110	37,810	38,960
Rateable Value	£1,289,449 (at 1.4.68)	£1,370,096 (at 1.4.69)	£1,435,862 (at 1.4.70)
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£5,300	£5,600	£5,875
Density of Population (persons per acre) ..	0.55	0.56	0.57
Number of Houses	11,293	11,711	12,020
Birth Rate (corrected) per 1,000 population ..	13.31	13.43	14.07
Death Rate (corrected) per 1,000 population ..	9.67	8.01	9.44
Infant Mortality Rate	17.66	15.02	11.93

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births								<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	243	225	468
Illegitimate .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	22	35
Total Live Births								256	247	503
Live Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated population (crude) ..								..	..	12.91
Live Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated population (corrected) ..								..	..	14.07
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births .. ..								..	..	6.96

Still Births								<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	4	4
Illegitimate .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
Total Still Births								—	4	4
Still Birth Rate per 1000 (live and still births) .. ..								..	..	7.89
Total Live and Still Births								<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
								256	251	507
Infant Deaths								<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age										
Legitimate .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	4	6
Illegitimate .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
Total								2	4	6
Infant Mortality Rates :—										
(a) All infants per 1000 live births .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.93
(b) Legitimate infants, per 1000 legitimate live births ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.82
(c) Illegitimate infants, per 1000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.00
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age								<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	4	6
Illegitimate .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
Total								2	4	6
Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1000 total live births .. ..								..	..	11.93
Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age								<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	5
Illegitimate .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
Total								2	3	5
Early Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1000 total live births ..								..	..	9.94
Perinatal Mortality								<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Still Births and Deaths under 1 week .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	7	9
Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1000 total live and still births								..	..	17.75
(a) Cuckfield Rural .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16.79
(b) Mid-Sussex Area .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16.79
Maternal Mortality										
Maternal Deaths (including abortion) .. .. .								..	..	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births								..	..	0.00
Deaths								<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
All Causes .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	227	211	438
Death Rate per 1000 of the population (crude) .. ..								..	..	11.24
Death Rate per 1000 of the population (corrected) ..								..	..	9.44

TABLE SHOWING VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEARS 1956-1970

Year	Esti- mated Popula- tion	Number of Births						Birth Rate	Number of Deaths			Death Rate	Infants' Deaths			Infant Death Rate	Natural Increase of Births over Deaths
		Legitimate			Illegitimate				M	F	Total		M	F	Total		
		M	F	Total	M	F	Total										
1956	26,490	173	150	323	5	3	8	12.50	146	167	313	11.81	4	3	7	21.14	18
1957	27,270	159	166	325	6	4	10	12.28	148	150	298	10.93	-	6	6	17.91	37
1958	27,880	173	202	375	14	3	17	15.46	159	181	340	9.75	4	3	7	17.85	52
1959	28,750	207	191	398	13	6	19	15.51	147	172	319	9.09	4	4	8	19.18	98
1960	29,470	237	226	463	12	4	16	17.38	162	280	442	9.51	5	1	6	12.52	37
1961	30,470	236	240	476	8	4	12	16.66	177	187	364	10.27	2	3	5	10.25	124
1962	30,770	238	240	478	10	12	22	16.90	190	190	380	10.62	8	3	11	22.00	120
1963	31,000	276	224	500	10	11	21	18.49	220	201	421	11.40	3	3	6	11.52	100
1964	33,590	272	258	530	13	7	20	18.00	164	166	330	8.24	2	4	6	10.91	220
1965	34,980	245	225	470	13	20	33	15.81	191	168	359	8.41	1	1	2	3.98	144
1966	35,470	244	205	449	14	13	27	14.76	189	187	376	8.58	2	3	5	10.50	100
1967	35,950	224	214	438	10	17	27	14.22	202	187	389	8.44	2	-	2	4.30	76
1968	37,110	229	197	426	19	8	27	13.31	216	201	417	9.67	5	3	8	17.66	36
1969	37,810	222	213	435	16	15	31	13.43	202	154	356	8.01	5	2	7	15.02	110
1970	38,960	243	225	468	13	22	35	14.07	227	211	438	9.44	2	4	6	11.93	65

CAUSES OF DEATH IN CUCKFIELD RURAL DISTRICT

Cause of Death	Sex	Total	Under 1 Year	1- 14	15- 44	45- 64	65- 74	75 and over
Meningococcal infection.. ..	M	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity, etc.	M	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	M	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	M	3	—	—	—	1	—	2
	F	4	—	—	—	—	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, intestine ..	M	9	—	—	—	2	4	3
	F	5	—	—	—	—	2	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	M	21	—	—	—	6	12	3
	F	3	—	—	—	1	—	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast ..	F	10	—	—	1	2	4	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ..	F	2	—	—	—	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, prostate ..	M	8	—	—	—	—	3	5
Leukaemia	M	2	—	1	—	1	—	—
	F	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Other malignant neoplasms ..	M	10	—	—	2	4	2	2
	F	6	—	—	—	—	2	4
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	F	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Diabetes mellitus	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Avitaminoses, etc.	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Other endocrine, etc., diseases ..	F	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Multiple sclerosis	F	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Other diseases of nervous system	M	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	M	3	—	—	1	1	1	—
	F	4	—	—	1	—	2	1
Hypertensive disease	M	2	—	—	—	—	2	—
	F	4	—	—	—	—	2	2
Ischaemic heart disease	M	58	—	—	3	18	21	16
	F	48	—	—	—	5	10	33
Other forms of heart disease ..	M	14	—	—	1	—	5	8
	F	17	—	—	—	—	2	15
Cerebrovascular disease	M	19	—	—	—	2	7	10
	F	37	—	—	—	2	8	27
Other diseases of circulatory system	M	11	—	—	—	2	7	2
	F	9	—	—	—	—	2	7
Influenza	M	3	—	—	—	2	—	1
	F	4	—	—	—	1	2	1
Pneumonia	M	26	—	—	—	4	2	20
	F	26	—	—	—	2	3	21
Bronchitis and emphysema ..	M	9	—	—	—	3	4	2
	F	5	—	—	—	2	2	1
Asthma	M	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Other diseases of respiratory system	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	2	—	—	—	—	1	1
Peptic ulcer	M	6	—	—	—	—	2	4

continued on next page

CAUSE OF DEATH IN CUCKFIELD RURAL DISTRICT

Cirrhosis of liver	F	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Other diseases of digestive system	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	2	—	—	—	—	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Other diseases, genito-urinary	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital anomalies	F	3	3	—	—	—	—	—
Other causes of perinatal mortality	M	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Motor vehicle accidents	M	4	—	—	2	1	—	1
	F	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
All other accidents	M	4	—	—	1	1	2	—
	F	6	—	—	—	—	1	5
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	M	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	2	—	—	—	1	—	1
All other external causes	M	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Totals:	M—227 F—211	438	6	3	14	67	127	221

MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE CUCKFIELD RURAL DISTRICT

	1969	1970
(i) Diseases of the heart and circulatory system	141 (39.61%)	170 (38.81%)
(Ischaemic disease)	86 (24.16%)	106 (24.20%)
(ii) Cancer (all sites)	82 (23.03%)	83 (18.95%)
(Cancer of Lung and Bronchus)	26 (7.30%)	24 (5.48%)
(iii) Cerebrovascular disease	47 (13.20%)	56 (12.79%)
(iv) Respiratory diseases (including tuberculosis and influenza)	38 (10.67%)	77 (17.58%)
(Respiratory tuberculosis)	Nil	Nil

CAUSE OF DEATH IN INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR

	Cause	Age
1.	Hypoplasia of lungs	7 hours
2.	Anencephaly. Big occipital encephalocele	15 hours
3.	Respiratory distress syndrome (Prematurity)	28 hours
4.	Respiratory distress syndrome (Prematurity)	2 days
5.	Extreme prematurity (27 weeks gestation)	3 days
6.	Pulmonary atresia. Congenital heart disease	1 week

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

The following Laboratories are utilised for the examination of specimens :

Public Health Laboratory, Brighton

Cuckfield Hospital Laboratory

Public Analyst's Laboratory at Lewes

I would like to express my thanks to the Directors of the above Laboratories for their assistance, particularly Dr. J. E. Jameson, of the Brighton Public Health Laboratory, for his helpful advice on many occasions.

Ambulance Facilities

Cases of infectious disease are removed by one of the East Sussex County Council's ambulances stationed at Haywards Heath or Burgess Hill Ambulance Station.

Hospital Accommodation for Infectious Diseases

Beds are available at Foredown Hospital, Portslade, for observation and/or treatment of cases of infectious disease.

A table on page 16 gives particulars of admissions during the year.

Smallpox

The South-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board state that cases of smallpox occurring in this district should be sent to the River Hospitals (Long Reach), Dartford, Kent.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Child Health Clinics :

Ardingly	..	..	Hapstead Hall	1st and 3rd Thursday 2.30-4 p.m. Dr. on 3rd Thursday
Balcombe	..	..	Church Hall	3rd Wednesday 2.30-4 p.m.
Bolney	..	..	Rawson Institute	4th Friday 2-4 p.m.
Copthorne	..	..	Village Hall	1st and 3rd Tuesday 2-4 p.m. Dr. on 3rd Tuesday
Crawley Down	..	..	Village Hall	2nd and 4th Tuesday 2.15-4 p.m. Dr. on 2nd Tuesday
Horsted Keynes	..	..	Congregational Hall	3rd Friday 2 p.m.
Hurstpierpoint	..	..	Methodist Hall	1st Wednesday 2-4 p.m. 3rd Wednesday 9.30-12 noon 2-4 p.m. Dr. each session
Keymer	..	..	Congregational Church Hall, Hassocks	2nd and 4th Monday 2-4 p.m. Dr. on 2nd Monday
Scaynes Hill	..	..	Women's Institute Hall	2nd Thursday 2-4 p.m.
Slaugham	..	..	Village Hall, Handcross	3rd Monday 2.15-4 p.m. Dr. each session
West Hoathly	..	..	Village Hall	1st Tuesday 2-4 p.m. Dr. each session
Lindfield	..	..	Congregational Hall	Toddlers Clinic 1st Tuesday 9.30-12 noon (by appointment) 1st and 3rd Tuesday 2.30-4 p.m. Dr. each session

Clinics :

Immunisation	Methodist Hall	3rd Wednesday 2.15 p.m.
	Cuckfield Road, Hurstpierpoint Village Hall, Crawley Down	2nd Tuesday 2.15 p.m.
Chest	Haywards Heath Hospital	Every Thursday 9.30 a.m. (by appointment)
	Cuckfield Hospital	Thursday 2 p.m. Diagnostic
Orthopaedic	B.R.C.S. (H.Q.), Paddockhall Road, Haywards Heath	<i>Orthopaedist :</i> 2nd Tuesday 10.30 a.m.-1 p.m.
		<i>Physiotherapist :</i> Tuesday 10.30 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday 9.30 a.m.-1 p.m. 2-4.30 p.m.
Speech Therapy ..	E.S.C.C. Clinic, Oaklands, Haywards Heath	Tuesday 9.15 a.m.-12.15 p.m. (by appointment)
	E.S.C.C. Clinic, Mill Road, Burgess Hill	Monday 1.30-3 p.m. (by appointment)
	E.S.C.C. Clinic, Royal George Road, Burgess Hill	Monday 9 a.m.-12 noon (by appointment)
Child Guidance ..	East Grinstead: Moat Road	Every Thursday (by appointment)
	Lewes: Castlegate House	Every Wednesday (by appointment)
	Portslade: Old Shoreham Road	Tuesday morning Thursday (by appointment)
	Burgess Hill: E.S.C.C. Clinic, Mill Road	Every Friday (by appointment)
	Crowborough: Mead House, Beacon Road	Every Tuesday (by appointment)
Eye Refractions .. (School Children)	Haywards Heath Hospital	Every Friday morning (by appointment)
	Morley Street Clinic, Brighton	Alternate Thursday mornings (by appointment)
Dental	Haywards Heath: E.S.C.C. Clinic, Oaklands	By appointment
	Burgess Hill: E.S.C.C. Clinic, Royal George Road	By appointment
	East Grinstead: County Dental Clinic, Moat Road	By appointment

Minor Ailments .. E.S.C.C. Clinic, Oaklands, As required
Haywards Heath

Cancer Prevention .. Haywards Heath: Tuesday evenings and
E.S.C.C. Clinic, Wednesday mornings as
Oaklands necessary (by appointment)
Burgess Hill: Tuesday mornings and Thursday
E.S.C.C. Clinic, evenings as necessary
Mill Road (by appointment)
E.S.C.C. Clinic, Wednesday mornings and
Royal George Road evenings as necessary
(by appointment)
East Grinstead: Wednesday mornings and
Moat Road evenings as necessary
(by appointment)

* Family Planning .. E.S.C.C. Clinic, Every Wednesday 2-4 p.m.
Oaklands, Dr. each session
Haywards Heath (by appointment)

* These Clinics are provided by the Family Planning Association

Venereal Diseases .. Facilities available at Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton

Women ..	Tuesday ..	4-7 p.m.
	Thursday ..	10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Men ..	Monday ..	4-7 p.m.
	Wednesday ..	10 a.m.-1 p.m.
	Thursday ..	2-5 p.m.
Men and Women ..	Friday ..	11 a.m.

Urgent cases only
(By appointment direct to V.D. Clinic)
New patients must attend 1 hour before clinic closes

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS

Disease	Total	Under 1 year	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	Over 25
Food Poisoning	7	—	—	1	1	1	4
Dysentery	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Infective Jaundice	11	—	—	1	—	1	9
Scarlet Fever	3	—	—	2	—	1	—
Measles	87	2	31	33	11	9	1
Whooping Cough	4	—	1	—	3	—	—
Totals ..	113	2	32	37	15	12	15

COMPARATIVE TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS

Year	New Cases						Deaths				Number on Register at end of Year					
	Respiratory			Non-Respiratory			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total	
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	Total
1948	12	9	21	2	2	4	7	5	12	-	1	1	59	51	110	61
1958	8	5	13	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	94	71	165	22
1959	6	1	7	1	1	2	1	1	2	-	-	-	96	70	166	24
1960	3	4	7	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	95	76	171	22
1961	5	1	6	1	-	1	2	-	2	-	-	-	97	74	171	23
1962	2	4	6	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	96	77	173	23
1963	3	5	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	96	75	171	19
1964	2	1	3	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	89	61	150	18
1965	5	1	6	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	89	65	154	18
1966	3	1	4	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	87	62	149	17
1967	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	82	54	136	19
1968	4	2	6	1	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	84	57	141	17
1969	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80	57	137	17
1970	1	-	*1	-	2	†2	-	-	-	-	-	-	61	40	101	11

* Male aged 23 † Females aged 70 and 77

FOREDOWN HOSPITAL, PORTSLADE

Twenty-six cases were admitted to hospital from the Mid-Sussex area for observation and or treatment in connection with known, or suspected, infectious diseases :—

Disease	Number of Admissions
Typhoid Fever	1
Observation Typhoid Fever	1
Food Poisoning	9
Ulcerative Colitis	1
Gastro-enteritis	1
Observation Gastro-enteritis	1
Observation Diarrhoea	1
Mumps	3
Infective Jaundice	1
Observation Infective Jaundice	1
Chickenpox	2
Chickenpox and Plagiocephaly	1
Chickenpox and Encephalitis	1
Erysipelas of Leg	1
Pyrexia of Uncertain Origin	1
Total ..	26

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR ON THE SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Mr. R. S. Relf, Chief Public Health Inspector, has furnished the following report on the sanitary supervision of the district.

GENERALLY

After comments on the staffing position during the year, the first section follows the sequence set out in DoE Circular 1/71 (paragraphs of which are noted in brackets) plus additional items dealt with by the Health and General Purposes Committee.

Towards the end of 1969 Committee responsibilities were altered and 'Housing', in all its aspects, was transferred to the Housing Committee. In consequence report material has been separated to correspond with this change. For administrative convenience the Council's duties in respect of moveable dwelling site licences come within the purview of the Planning Committee which operates primarily under delegation from the County Council.

STAFF

Staff shortages in 1968 and again in 1969 resulted in a considerable 'backlog' of routine work being brought forward. 1970 was to prove even worse, staff wise.

By the end of March one inspector and both members of the clerical staff had left, and soon after, one remaining inspector became ill and was away for some three months, leaving only the Chief and Deputy available. This of course coincided with the real impact of the Housing Act 1969—particularly the more complicated grant provisions and the 'new' and complex procedures associated with the issue of Qualification Certificates. In January the appropriate Committee had declined to appoint a Deputy Petroleum Officer so that the surveillance of the 93 licensed premises (with approximately 254,700 gallons of petroleum spirit stored in some 198 tanks—many of which were due for testing—continued to devolve personally on the C.P.H.I. at a time when the 1969 Act work was increasingly monopolising his time.

Continuity of staff employment is obviously important—particularly in a rural area where memory and knowledge of the peculiar problems of an area are sometimes critical, and it takes time, even when appointed, for a new inspector to develop his full potential.

After nearly twenty years of most conscientious and reliable service, it would be less than fair not to acknowledge with gratitude our debt to Miss Robbins, and a wish for a long and happy retirement. Fortunately her place was taken by a former junior (who returned from service with another department) and who, in consequence, had some knowledge of the diversified duties involved.

The Inspectorate was back to full strength in January, 1971, and the junior post filled after a six months' lapse, so the next year's report will be prepared in more cheerful mood.

A. HEALTH AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Water Supply (5 (1))

Over 99% of houses and shops are connected to the public main or private service, and the following table indicates the position, on a parish basis.

Parish	No. of premises	Premises with piped supply	
		No.	Estimated population
Albourne	225	223	727
Ardingly	515	515	1771
Balcombe	599	595	1962
Bolney	392	390	1315
Clayton	634	634	2389
Cuckfield Rural	798	795	2320
Fulking	112	101	344
Horsted Keynes	491	491	1425
Hurstpierpoint	2031	2023	6868
Keymer	2136	2136	6607
Lindfield Rural	634	634	2141
Newtimber	43	43	153
Poynings	110	108	322
Pyecombe	90	90	388
Slaugham	727	724	2084
Twineham	91	91	290
West Hoathly	604	604	2286
Worth	2350	2325	6765
Totals ..	12582	12522	40157

The various Water Authorities maintain a regular sampling programme (Brighton Corporation, East Surrey and Mid-Sussex being concerned) and this is supplemented by routine chemical and bacteriological sampling undertaken by this Department. None of the sources is plumbo solvent in character and filtration and chlorination is practised as a routine safeguard—bearing in mind that some intakes are from rivers and streams. The only real cause of complaint during the year (limited to certain areas) was sediment in the delivered water. This arose chiefly as a result of flushing out mains, a considerable proportion of which are old, adding the products of internal deterioration to the naturally high iron content of some local waters. Complaints of ‘ bad taste ’ from the northern part of the area where some residents—used to water from chalk borings—did not take kindly to the ‘ flat ’ taste of stored surface water, consequent upon the bringing into use of the Weirwood Reservoir, have now virtually ceased.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal (6)

Thanks to the forward-looking attitude of the Council in the past, most of the villages and hamlets in the area have the benefit of a water-borne sewage system. Present ratepayers should be grateful for this fact because

the cost of the provision now of a sewerage system and disposal works is astronomically high.

It is hoped to review, in the 1971 Report, the current sewerage systems and any existing or potential problems will be fully discussed. With some systems originating in the last century the aspect of replacement—quite apart from the efforts to keep up with the rapidly growing population—is beginning to become a matter of some concern. As most of the sewers are 'combined', the trend towards more general use of impervious surfaces and the reducing use of soakage pits in populated areas, produces special problems.

Major extension of the two main works (at Copthorne and Hurstpierpoint) is under way. This Council has always been prepared to experiment with new developments and these plants are of quite sophisticated design. By next year, the steps taken to overcome the difficult sludge problem, can be summarised.

There are still approximately one thousand cesspools requiring to be emptied, and an emptying service is provided, although, due to the increasing provision of local works the 'fleet' of emptying vehicles is steadily being reduced. Apart from isolated areas enjoying (for historical reasons) a free service, a charge is made, but this is of a token nature, the balance being made up from rate sources.

Because of the programme of sewerage populated areas and the fact that water-borne systems can be subsidised under improvement grant schemes the Council has now discontinued its pail closet emptying service. As these are now virtually non-existent this has produced very little hardship, the only possible exception being the cases of the elderly widow—or widower—where independent efforts are made to produce a satisfactory solution.

Particular 'blackspots' are the areas of Tyes Cross and Valebridge Road. In the former case owing to pressure of work, a consultant was brought in to produce a scheme. Because of the distance from the nearest sewer (the present tendency is to try, if at all possible, to have as few separate 'works' as possible) and other geographical considerations this scheme proved to be too costly (something in the order of £800 per house!) and the Council decided to utilise its limited financial resources on other, less costly, schemes.

Up to a certain point—where it comes within the area of Burgess Hill Urban Council (sewer available)—houses in Valebridge Road are situated either within this or the Chailey Rural area. Only one house (in our district) can gravitate to the Burgess Hill sewer so that pumping is necessary if a joint scheme is decided upon. With two Councils (each with its own problems of finance and staff availability) concerned, it takes a little longer for such a scheme to be finalised.

Common Lodging Houses (7)

There are no common lodging houses within the district.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955 (9)

(a) Milk Supplies—Brucella Abortus

Twenty-five samples of raw milk were examined, all with negative results.

Action taken in the case of positive samples includes visiting the farm and interviewing all persons concerned to ensure that, even if symptoms

are not present, all milk handlers are aware of the methods of spread and the precautions to be taken.

All samples are also subject to penicillin screening at the laboratory—with negative results during the year.

(b) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

At the last full survey the number and classification of food premises subject to these regulations was as given in the following table :—

Type of Premises	Total No.
Catering Establishments	79
Schools (Private and State) .. .	31
Grocers' Shops .. .	67
Sweet Shops .. .	18
Butchers' Shops .. .	17
Greengrocers' Shops .. .	11
Confectioners' Shops .. .	10
Wet Fish Shops .. .	3
Fried Fish Shops .. .	2
Mobile Fish Shops .. .	1
Mobile Fried Fish Shops .. .	1
Wholesale Stores .. .	2
Total ..	242

One hundred and seventeen premises were registered for the sale of wrapped ice-cream (there are no manufacturing premises) whilst 8 rooms were registered for sausage preparation, 5 for cooking of food and 1 for brining/pickling of meat.

(c) Poultry Inspection

There are 3 specific poultry processing premises within the district, and 86 visits to these are recorded. Something of the order of 19,000 birds were dealt with—principally hens, broilers and capons with a (decreasing) number of turkeys. Owing to staff limitations much reliance had to be placed on the industrial 'spotter' system with such food inspector checking as could be arranged. During the year no doubtful cases were referred to the Department and the somewhat limited checks revealed an intelligent appreciation of the responsibility undertaken.

There are of course, in a rural district, a large number of small premises which deal—often on a seasonal basis—with a few birds for local customers or passing motorists. Unless stunning precedes slaughter these do not come within full control but visits are made, as opportunity allows, and the requirements as to hygiene, etc., explained to the operators. Most of the large-scale breeders (broiler or egg production) send their 'crops' to the packing stations for ultimate disposal.

(d) Generally

(i) Food Inspection and Complaints

There was no need for any statutory condemnation of food during the year, all items unfit for human consumption being voluntarily surrendered and accepted as such. Items concerned were :

From Wholesale Stores :	Canned Fruit	3296 lbs.	(251 tins)
	Canned Vegetables	3877 "	(2060 ")
	Canned Meat	945 "	(130 ")
From Retail Stores :	Canned Fruit	28 "	(12 ")
	Canned Meat	30 "	(2 ")
	Meat	233 "	
	Fish	134 "	
	Vegetables	6 "	

There being no private slaughterhouses remaining in operation, the inspection of butchers' meat was confined to retail premises, and advantage taken of opportunities in this direction during routine food hygiene or 'OSR' visits.

The tendency over recent years for purchasers to be more fastidious over the condition of food purchased was maintained. In the main, shortcomings were of a trivial nature and court proceedings were not called for; this apart, investigation of these complaints tends to have a salutary effect on food handlers who sometimes evidence obvious relief when told that because of circumstances 'no further action will be taken, this time'.

'Containerisation' continued to give little trouble during the year, only the large firm of wholesale grocers in the north of the district being involved. The system is not yet perfect; one container we were called to examine (fortunately only containing peas—from Eire) being 'sealed' by a short length of rusty baling wire !

(ii) Food Hygiene—Shops and Catering Establishments

The inability to devote the necessary time to this aspect of our work, perhaps, caused the most concern. Random rather than regular visits had to be relied upon, but, perhaps by virtue of any goodwill generated by our usual 'adviser' rather than 'sanitary policeman' attitude adopted in this and other fields, conditions in the main were found to be satisfactory. (It can be recorded, in advance, that with a full staff during 1971 so far, it has been possible to 'catch up' on this work, and most premises should have been adequately visited by the end of the year).

(iii) Private and Local Authority Schools

Visits to these are included in our inspection routine. Possibly because the County Council officers also visit their own schools and perhaps because 'finance' might be easier, the general equipment standard (which affects ease of cleansing) of local authority schools/catering premises tends to be marginally better, although, of course, some of the larger schools in the private sector maintain a very high standard indeed.

(iv) Homes for the Elderly

Two of the five registered homes are administered by the East Sussex County Council, and the generally satisfactory conditions noted in past reports continued. With an ageing population there is likely to be an increase in these premises whilst better medical care also makes its contribution towards an increase in the expected span of life.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961 (10)

During the year 12 specific visits were paid to premises covered by this Act. The sophistication generally being developed in regard to actual process matters is not always reflected in standards of catering facilities and, in particular, sanitary accommodation. The catering side is steadily improving—the influx of staff in the south-east is to some extent influenced by availability

of fringe benefits—but, particularly in very small firms, the toilets (perhaps 'out of sight, etc.' obtains) tend to lag behind, and—usually informal—reminders are more frequently necessary.

In an area without the high unemployment shadow of some other districts, it is perhaps natural for available labour to be used primarily for production purposes, and the maintenance of sanitary facilities given a low priority.

The statistics asked for in Appendix II are as follows:

1. INSPECTION FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	98	10	3	—
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	101	12	3	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	1	1	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) ..					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	4	4	—	—	—

There were 12 outworkers in the August list.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The following tables give statistics relevant to this Act. It was possible to fit in only 26 specific inspections, although considerably more visits were paid to concerned premises under other legislation which, in the absence of any observed shortcomings, would not be credited as OSR inspections. It can be mentioned that the 1971 position is more satisfactory.

Registrations and General Inspections

Class of Premises	No. of premises newly registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	No. of registered premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year
Offices	4	48	4
Retail shops	2	117	14
Wholesale shops, warehouses	—	2	—
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens ..	1	26	8
Fuel storage depots	—	5	—
Totals ..	7	198	26

Analysis of Persons Employed in registered premises by workplace

<i>Class of workplace</i>	<i>Number of persons employed</i>
Offices	333
Retail shops	383
Wholesale departments, warehouses	45
Catering establishments open to the public	155
Canteens	24
Fuel storage depots	16
	<hr/> 956 <hr/>

BATHING FACILITIES

In addition to the 7 pools provided by schools (private and local authority controlled) one private pool, attached to an hotel, receives considerable public support during suitable weather. The sporadic bathing in two large lakes and a river mentioned in past reports seems to be decreasing, perhaps because more people have their own transport, and because facilities and safety offered by traditional pools are increasingly attractive.

INFESTATION CONTROL

Because the Council employs only one rodent operative (who is fully engaged on his own specific duties) and because qualified Public Health Inspectors must give their time to their normal professional duties, apart from rodents, the Department does not as a general rule undertake physical eradication of pests. General advice as to methods of treatment is given (and during the 'wasp season' the telephone is rarely free) and in a few cases of hardship or where potential public health aspects might be present, in addition to his normal duties (set out below) the rodent operative has been authorised to treat. Twenty-eight premises were dealt with in this way during the year, 13 for flies, 5 for cockroaches, 3 for ants, 6 for fleas and 1 for beetles.

With the advent of the new (for instance D.D.T. type) insecticides after the war there was a marked reduction in the pest population. It is now something of a rarity for an infestation of bed bugs to come to light; and if it does the treatment is easy and effective. Flies of various types are a common cause of complaint, if anything rather more frequent than during the past decade. It may be that they are becoming resistant to insecticides normally purchased by the housewife and indeed the department has to 'ring the changes' with materials employed. Most of the anti-fly treatments were in respect of cluster fly type of infestations, where, for no apparent reason an individual dwelling block suddenly becomes infested with a mass of flies. Even before treatment, loft floors can have at least a half inch deposit of dead flies, and in this connection never fails to make occupants appreciate the value of covering cold water service tanks.

Of course residents always 'know' where the flies are coming from. (Under 'complaints' is mentioned a certain poultry farm, the alleged source of all flies within a five-mile radius). Opportunity is taken here of paying a rather belated tribute to, in particular, the Entomology Department of the British Museum, which offers assistance in identifying specimens, and usually gives suggestions as to the best method of treatment. Little is known about the breeding habits of some of the 'cluster fly' type of insect. One such fly—alleged to be breeding at the poultry farm referred to—is in fact thought to breed in areas containing a certain type of grass. (Quite a problem if one wishes to attack the source).

With regard to rodents, the Council, like any private individual has a responsibility to eradicate rats and mice on its own land. An important duty of the operative, therefore, is to survey sewage works, refuse disposal points and other like premises, and treat any infestation found. A regular routine is maintained with additional visits when trouble is experienced.

In addition, in accordance with a programme worked out in consultation with the Ministry, sewerage systems are regularly test baited, if necessary followed by appropriate treatment. Parts of the (last century) system at Turners Hill used regularly to give trouble, ultimately traced to inadequate sealing off of disused drains and a broken—partly exposed—branch to a ventilation pipe. No trouble has been experienced here, or elsewhere, for several years now.

Work in the private sector is basically that of surveying areas and obtaining compliance with the requirements where infestations are found. In fact this work is mainly limited to agricultural premises and such local investigations necessary where other than a strictly localised infestation occurs.

It has been the practice for many years now to offer a free service to private premises, but making a charge for business premises. It is much more

satisfactory to deal with an infestation, as reported, than to write letters explaining to occupiers their duty under the Act to deal with the rats themselves. At one time a token charge was made, but as the administrative cost of collection exceeded the revenue obtained, the free service was instituted and residents now regard this service as of right.

Statistics on this subject, being readily available, are included :

Private Dwellings:

No. of dwellings surveyed, or visited as a result of notification	..	417
No. of dwellings where treatment was carried out	.. ..	343
Total number of treatments carried out to private dwellings.	..	388
Total number of visits to private dwellings	.. ..	1613

Business Premises:

No. of food shops surveyed, or visited as a result of notification		7
No. of food shops where treatment was carried out	.. ..	6
No. of catering establishments (including hotels and schools) surveyed, or visited as a result of notification	.. ..	37
No. of catering establishments where treatment was carried out	..	33
No. of other premises surveyed, or visited as a result of notification		22
No. of other premises where treatment was carried out	.. ..	20
No. of farms surveyed, or visited as a result of notification	.. ..	70
No. of farms where infestations were found :		
	In survey	21
	By notification	5
No. of farms where treatment was carried out	.. ..	5
Total number of treatments carried out at business premises	..	61
Total number of visits to business premises	.. ..	351

Council Property (Sewage Works, Refuse Tips, etc.)

Total number of visits	276
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PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

This Council makes payment to Parish Councils towards the upkeep of communal toilets, and supplies certain materials. Although on occasion difficulty is experienced staff wise, in general maintenance is satisfactory. The problems of public conveniences are chiefly twofold. Vandalism seems to be the norm in some areas whilst a fluctuating 'throughput' raises problems. In assessing standards of cleanliness one must appreciate that a somewhat substandard convenience could, a couple of hours earlier, have been 'spotless'. Indeed the most common complaints received—sometimes from a wide area—are in respect of toilets serving a particular inn, a favourite stopping point for coaches. Inspection has revealed that within almost minutes of the completion of a quite adequate cleansing, the female area in particular can be reduced to a most untidy condition plus obstructed apparatus. Unless a quite unrealistic number of toilets are provided this trouble is likely to recur during peak seasonal usage; and customers are not entirely blameless, as evidenced by the quite unnecessary damage to apparatus.

HAIRDRESSERS' ESTABLISHMENTS

Satisfactory conditions were found to prevail at the 12 permanent and 1 mobile establishments. The Byelaws covering this usage are quite commonsense and easily complied with.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957

No complaints were received in respect of any of the six licensed premises which fortunately are not situated too near residential areas. The cooking of swill can result in the production of distasteful odours (almost an 'offensive trade' in its own right) and a few years ago one plant (now happily discontinued) caused considerable difficulty. Operators are required, by the statute, to boil the material, and then we visit in response to complaints; needless to say caustic comments are not unusual!

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

There were 10 licensed premises in use during the year and these were found, upon inspection, to be satisfactory. The persons who operate these establishments in rural areas tend to have adequate working space plus the time necessary to devote to the care of their charges, and one forms the impression that interest in customers' pets over-rides the normal financial motives of running a business.

CLEAN AIR

Formal applications under these Acts were limited to requests for 'prior approval' which were dealt with at officer level. Many complaints, under Section 16, of smoke from garden bonfires are not substantiated due to the interval between receipt of message and an actual visit. Bonfire smoke seems currently to be the most general cause of resentment between neighbours. One side resents the inconvenience caused, and the other resents the fact that a complaint has been made to us about an 'ordinary bonfire'. Much oil has to be poured on troubled waters (we are reminded of the slogans posted on refuse collection vehicles not very long ago to 'Burn your refuse and reduce the rates') but when adequate—and readily accessible—disposal 'places' are provided (to comply with the Civil Amenities Act) it may well be that their use will overcome this particular problem.

For some years now the Council has operated (for, and at the expense of, the County Council) two automatic atmospheric sampling machines. This involved weekly visits to recover used filter pads and SO₂ containing fluid, 'charge' the apparatus for the forthcoming week, titrate the fluid, take reflectometer readings of the filter pad stains, and transmit the readings to the central laboratory at Warren Springs. The apparatus itself had to be maintained in proper running order, and in practice—because they are running continuously—air pumps needed quite regular replacement.

The investigation, initially intended to last only two years, concluded on the 31st March, 1970.

ARDINGLY SHOWGROUND

Pop festivals and similar gatherings are currently 'news', and 'codes of practice' are being produced in all directions. Agricultural shows have been with us for many years and organisers, taking advantage of the professional advice freely available at their local Council offices, seem to have coped reasonably well. Of course the assembly of a large number of people for only one to three days presents a problem, but provided commonsense

prevails, and the matter is approached from a first principle angle, there is no cause for panic. It is recognised, though, that anyone who would accept nothing lower than a '5 star' rating, is not likely to relish toilet facilities which, on a non-permanent site, might bear some semblance to the Army's 'Manual of Hygiene and Sanitation'.

At the first show, in 1967, on the Ardingly site we had to accept certain temporary type standards—including covered pits constructed in the local clay which were pumped out after each day's use. We were rather worried, too, that the overflow system serving the (properly constructed) permanent septic tank disposal unit might give trouble; in the event no trouble whatsoever has been encountered.

Of course each year sees more 'permanent' facilities available although reliance has still to be placed on the use of specialist built toilet caravans which, being connected to water and drainage systems, are in fact little inferior to a permanent building. Two small chemical closet points were in use, but it is hoped by 1972 to replace these by normal water closets.

Limited duration mass catering presents problems and this aspect receives particular attention not only during public participation, but beforehand on the principle that prevention is better (and easier) than cure. Close liaison exists between the Society's officers and appropriate Council staff.

INFECTIOUS AND FOOD-BORNE DISEASES

Irrespective of staff availability, this subject must be accorded priority over the normal 'day to day' functions of the Department. Here again prevention is better and much easier than cure, and it is of vital importance to ensure that the spread of infection is halted. Enquiries as to the circumstances of each case, efforts to trace contacts, the obtaining of samples, in appropriate cases, all take time. Not so long ago contacts of a serious infectious disease in say, Hong Kong, would have passed the incubation period long before reaching these shores. To-day the speed of air travel has changed this picture and the receipt of a notification that a contact has proceeded to an address within the district requires an immediate visit to confirm that the symptoms are known and that action necessary, if in doubt, is appreciated.

PETROLEUM STORAGE PREMISES

As mentioned last year and referred to earlier in this report, inability to carry out optimum routine supervision of these premises is causing concern. Using the grant scheme as an example, the difficulty is that given the alternative of either dealing with a personal or telephonic enquirer (or indeed processing a report on an acceptable application) or going out on the premeditated check of a certain service station, the latter is always 'put off' in favour of the more apparently current item. (If next day the station concerned were wrecked by a petroleum spirit explosion, then one's view of priorities might drastically change—particularly if asked to explain why no visit had been made for the past 'x' months).

All firm petroleum enquiries are, of course, fully dealt with, and new installations properly tested before the recommendation of the granting of a licence is made.

A fairly recent development is the coming into being of 'self service' stations and a scheme for one of these is at an advanced state. With the

' non-attended ' variety there is a need for special care—particularly in providing lucid instructions. A customer who has parted with his money, but cannot get the petrol, tends to show his annoyance by taking it out on the—usually innocent—apparatus. It is also not unknown for a customer who has forgotten to remove the hose from the filler pipe to literally move the pump before appreciating that something is wrong. (Delivery nozzles, these days, are usually designed to ' fail safe ', but unusual strains, as just mentioned, sometimes cause a failure of the safety device).

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS (Planning Committee)

Once a planning permission is in force (not necessary in certain cases) the next step is for the District Council to issue a site licence based on recommendations made jointly by the Engineer and Surveyor and the Chief Public Health Inspector; regard is had to the model code in framing the recommendations. Thereafter routine visits are made to confirm continued compliance with the conditions.

COMPLAINTS

Particularly in the case of foodstuffs (dealt with earlier) the public is, each year, becoming more prone to make complaints about an increasing variety of subjects. Many of these are justifiable although not always the concern of the department. Where action can usefully be taken the matter is referred to the person concerned, always initially in an informal way. In fact during the year only on two occasions, when difficulty was being experienced, was an authorisation requested to take statutory action. In one case the house owner referred the matter to a professional firm and, not only were our requirements met without the need to serve the notice, but other improvements were carried out. (The other case is referred to in more detail below).

Even if not able to deal with a particular complaint efforts are made to give advice so that the problem can be overcome. In addition to 388 complaints of rats or mice infestation (dealt with by the rodent operative) actionable complaints were recorded as follows :

Overflowing cesspools	..	..	..	2
Drainage .. .. .	..	..	..	9
Housing defects	..	..	..	4
Fly infestation .. .. .	..	..	..	13
Unsatisfactory living conditions	..	..		2
Sanitary accommodation	..	..	..	1
Dust and smoke nuisance	..	..	..	4
Noise nuisance .. .. .	..	..	..	7
Miscellaneous .. .. .	..	..	..	17
				—
Total	..			59
				—

Poultry Farms

In last year's report particular reference was made to trouble experienced at a farm in the central area of the district. During 1970 the matter smouldered on (as summarised below) but is likely to be finally resolved by the end of 1971.

This farm, with an average hen population of some 200,000 birds (battery layers) and a rather restricted total area, from the first had a dung problem.

With a heavy clay subsoil, soakage, for most of the year, was almost non-existent, and in consequence pits which were dug to accommodate the dung soon filled up, and enlargement only 'put off the evil day'. In the period covered by this report the lagoon had a surface area exceeding two acres and at one point was about fifteen feet deep. Owing to the high natural level of surface water, great depth was of no value and actually aggravated the problem because the dung polluted a large proportion of otherwise quite innocuous surface water. In consequence depth of future excavations was decreased so that volume potential was maintained by containing the waste within raised walls made from the material excavated. Inevitably, these walls eventually leaked, effluent finding its way into ditches which naturally gravitated to the river. This the River Authority dealt with, and as a consequence, to keep the level down large scale pumping was resorted to on to the relatively small field. Obviously, with minimal natural soakage potential, the effluent flowed more or less straight to ditches, which led riverwards and which had been deliberately obstructed so that effluent which seeped through the banks could be pumped back into the lagoon. The farcical position then obtained that, to lower the level in the lagoon, effluent was pumped over a field and (plus normal surface water) gravitated back to ditch sumps only to be pumped back into the lagoons.

In an effort to realise any soakage potential, a pilot scheme was resorted to whereby lagoon effluent was pumped at a low rate continuously to a fairly small elevated tank from which it gravitated through a moveable irrigation pipeline over selected areas. Needless to say the holes in the pipeline soon became obstructed, and not surprisingly, the disposal area was not alternated sufficiently. By this stage we had already served a statutory notice in regard to polluted 'Pond/Pool/Ditches' but on each occasion when the point of instituting court action was reached, the ditches were cleansed. Prior knowledge of an impending official River Authority inspection prompted, in December, heavy full-bore panic pumping (to lower the lagoon level) and the ditches were almost immediately again in trouble. The Analyst's report included: 'This ditch water was in a foul condition. Its strength, as judged by the BOD figure, considerably exceeds that of strong crude sewage'. The year under review ended with the imminence of a River Authority County Court case, the commencement of a second large lagoon (to give the firm a temporary 'breathing space') and a further cleansing of the polluted ditches. We fully intended to take advantage of the provisions of the 'new' Public Health (Recurring Nuisances) Act, 1969, but as the 1971 Report will indicate, a new development (private action) was to have particular impact on the matter and, it is confidently anticipated, may well clear up the problem.

From the first, it had been explained to complainants that when dealing with dust or effluvia from trade premises we had to have regard to the possibility of a 'best practical means' defence. Basically the firm was carrying on operations in a manner quite normal in the particular industry. The only real difference was in the scale of operations. Another problem was that for an inspector to actually confirm an actionable odour was quite unique. For instance although the lagoon was always blamed, on one hot June day two senior River Authority officers plus my deputy and myself stood on the lagoon bank literally within inches of the contents yet with no odour apparent. On only one occasion during the year, when investigating a complaint, was an odour nuisance substantiated.

In mentioning our difficulties to complainants, the advantage of private action was stressed. There was no 'best practical means defence' the only point of issue being was there a nuisance sufficient to cause material inconvenience to a complainant? If there was, there should not be, and so the

nuisance should cease. At long last—in 1971—residents heeded this advice, with, it is anticipated, satisfactory results.

Industry

In practice 'Planning' and 'Public Health' often come into contact (if not conflict) as happened in a case of an established industrial site in the centre of a village in the north of the district. As in the transport field, so in industry, changes take place resulting in new techniques which give rise to different problems. Old businesses become engaged in similar yet quite different fields of operation—Planning use relates to land rather than individual buildings on it, and so expansion can in many instances take place without in any way giving rise to a material change of use. A nearby resident who witnesses the expansion and, inevitably, mechanisation of premises does not see this in quite the same way; particularly if the noise level from industry and transport (both customer and heavy lorries delivering and collecting materials) increases.

In this case a light industrial usage was enjoyed and as such ought to be capable of existing in a residential area without giving rise to nuisance. A small hardcore of local residents had other ideas on this and much pressure was put on officers of the departments concerned and in consequence a disproportionate amount of staff time was employed in obtaining—on a voluntary basis—a quite small measure of improvement. Noise level readings were not of much value here, and the saying that the human ear is the best recording instrument is undoubtedly true. The trouble is that noise affects people in quite different ways and a level which one person quite cheerfully tolerates causes genuine hardship to another. One has to cater for the 'normal person', a definition most difficult on occasion to interpret.

In the south of the district fans from the refrigeration plant of a new supermarket gave rise to (not entirely justifiable) complaints and as a result of informal representations remedial action is being taken so that reference here is not merited.

However a resident who lives some distance away, having heard of our involvement, decided that these fans were causing the 'buzzing' that kept him awake at night, and so he contacted us. We did not really accept his story, but arranged for the fans to be switched off for a period (without his knowledge) one night. His 'noise' continued however! In conversation it was discovered that he was a 'do it yourself' advocate, and indeed had been working additional long hours in modernising his 'new' house. It was suggested that perhaps he had been 'overdoing it', and why not have a chat with his doctor? The predictable end of the story is that he was found to have ear trouble and a visit to a specialist was arranged. Being a reasonable man, he had the courtesy to telephone us to report that treatment was giving him marked relief; and to appreciate our suggestion in the matter. Many of our complainants, unfortunately, do not come in the 'reasonable' category, but this case does illustrate the difficulty of trying to tell some people that we cannot really substantiate their complaints, or alternatively the matter is one of private nuisance which should be dealt with at personal level.

Generally

Many people are under the impression that the primary function of the department is to act as a free alternative to obtaining traditional legal advice and action. Like the person who disliked clay pigeon shooting which took place on one Sunday per month (during daylight hours of course) not very far away. His was the only complaint received, and in fact another member of the public, living literally next door, was not troubled. Because of this,

and the infrequency of shooting the complainant was advised to make a private complaint. The owner of the land having (in a 'Planning' context) already intimated that if trouble was caused he would discontinue the sport, when the matter was mentioned did, indeed, take the steps promised.

In another case considered not actionable, a landlord (who had offices in part of the building) asked for wild pigeons to be cleared from an 'urban area'. It was found that the house doves were owned by the firm's tenant and that there was inter-party friction which it was hoped we would resolve. There was certainly no 'Public Health' nuisance, and it could not be argued that the birds had no known owner, so, as the firm admitted that there was a specific restriction as to the keeping of pets, etc., in the tenancy agreement, the matter was not proceeded with.

One frequently discovers a matter which should certainly have resulted in a nuisance being suffered by a person or group of persons and, which ought to be remedied. The persons concerned, usually 'did not want to make a fuss'. This contrasts sharply to the position noted in many of the petitions which arrive at the Council offices. In very many cases only one—or at most a very few—person(s) have a justifiable grievance, yet by (often selective) canvassing a formidable list of signatures evolves. Upon going into the matter one is often struck by the obvious fact that in many cases quite a proportion of those claiming to be prejudiced are not in sight or hearing (as appropriate) of the object complained of. If it were to become mandatory for a petition to be signed by every person invited to subscribe—plus an indication whether 'for' or 'against'—then these documents could be seen in a more serious light.

B. HOUSING COMMITTEE

The transfer of responsibility for private sector housing from the Health and General Purposes Committee has, of course, considerably increased the number of dwellings now the direct concern of the Housing Committee. Although it has some disadvantages administratively (it is often difficult to decide whether a housing defect ought properly to be dealt with under the Housing Acts or the Public Health Acts) now that 'the Ministers will regard the scale and type of work done to improve or repair the existing stock of houses . . . as an integral part of the authority's housing programme' (Circular 64/69) there is some merit in the new system of overall housing responsibility.

Unfit Houses

This district does not have a problem under this heading partly as there are no 'twilight areas' as such, and partly because, to be legally unfit, the house must be in a pretty poor condition. The unfit houses found as a result of the post-war Rural Housing Survey have been dealt with, although of course a further full-scale detailed survey would no doubt bring to light some houses which (usually through lack of reasonable maintenance) had suffered more than average deterioration.

Maximum available effort was directed towards the grant scheme and only two houses were dealt with formally, 'undertakings' being given in each case.

Rent Control

Until the advent of the Housing Act, 1969, the only work in connection with 'rent' carried out by the Department was in relation to the issue of Certificates of Disrepair.

As the enabling legislation had been virtually repealed in toto, it was presumed that these Certificates could no longer be applied for, but in fact the provisions were re-enacted although in rather an obscure way. In any event no application was received during the year.

The observation in Circular 79/70 (dated September) that 'The provisions of Part III of the Act . . . are complicated and the statutory procedures to be followed are lengthy' is certainly not an understatement. As 'the procedures cannot however be much simplified without further legislation' (not effected to date) much research time was called for particularly in the early stages in dealing with the thirty applications for Qualification Certificates or Certificates of Provisional Approval received up to the end of the year. In general, the public (including many professional advisers) are quite unable to grasp the main points at issue despite a freely available and quite informative official booklet.

The Council has complete discretion in interpreting what is meant by good repair—although of course regard must be had to age, character and location of the dwelling—but its decisions can be questioned in the County Court. As recommended by the Ministry, where a house is not regarded as being in good repair the owner or agent is contacted, the alleged shortcomings specified, and the opportunity given of carrying these out, in advance of formal consideration of the application. This has been appreciated, and prevented the refusal to issue a certificate.

Improvement and Standard Grants

Much of the Department's work is of an 'out of sight', prevention based, nature, but it is in this particular activity that one can see a tangible end product emerge. For this reason one does not begrudge the not inconsiderable amount of staff time utilised in dealing with the many grant enquiries received. Of course many would-be applicants are disappointed because, first of all, repairs on their own are not eligible for consideration, and secondly because, although Councils have very wide powers of discretion indeed, the real aim of the scheme is the provision, for the first time, of amenities, etc., and the replacement of one (perhaps old fashioned) fitting for another of more acceptable type is not sufficient to ensure financial assistance.

Because nearly every scheme involves work in addition to the provision of one or more of the normal amenities, the Standard scheme is not encouraged, and only one Standard Grant (in the sum of £40) was paid during the year. (Two applications dealt with).

Improvement (former 'Discretionary') grants have, from the initiation of the scheme, been actively encouraged by this Council. By the end of the previous year, 1132 Improvement and 96 Standard grants had been approved, figures which compare well with those of other districts of similar size and characteristics. One disadvantage of having secured the improvement of a fair proportion of improvable properties already is that less remain to be dealt with, and these tend to be the ones with problems.

During the year under review, 55 Improvement Grants were approved (compared with 36 for the previous year) and the amount involved (approximately three quarters being recoverable from central funds) was £29,395. Grants totalling £19,250 (in respect of 47 properties—some initiated in 1969) were actually paid during the period, bringing the accumulated total to £303,817 (plus £9,296 in respect of standard grants).

Unquestionably the provisions of the 1969 Act are a considerable improvement on former legislation particularly now that repairs and replacements (subject to certain 'provisos') can be considered. Many houses were

spoiled (or indeed not even improved at all) because the owners could not afford, in addition, to defray the full cost of necessary repairs. The normal maximum of £1,000 is obviously much better than the old £400 figure, but a word of caution is necessary here. The £1,000 also has to cover the repair aspect; and, as anyone dealing with current prices will know, £1,000 value today does not compare too well with the value of £400 when the first grant scheme was introduced.

The Ministers, by all the available means of public dissemination of knowledge and by issue of Circulars encouraging Councils to 'press on' with implementing the scheme, make plain the Government's determination that steps be taken now to deal with sub-standard (repair and/or amenities) houses so that they do not eventually slip into the 'slum' category and in consequence require replacement. Perhaps with a typical rural outlook, this Council has always tended to rehabilitate a cottage which has character and is worth preserving. On the other hand, in an industrial town, it might be better to demolish whole blocks of (usually cramped and repetitive) houses, and re-plan the whole area. This is relevant when Improvement Areas are considered. Even given adequate staff, it would not be particularly easy to find suitable areas because already improved houses are quite regularly interspersed throughout the district, and at the moment applications are received at a rate which corresponds with potential staff throughput. When spontaneous interest in the scheme begins to wane, then obviously we shall repeat the 'house to house' survey instituted (for this very reason) some time ago under the former £400 legislation. (Areas were in fact dealt with then which might conceivably have been potential 'Improvement Areas' now).

Because an 'improved' house is a fit house—and likely to remain so for at least a decade—the grant scheme has, indirectly, made an important contribution towards better housing—and one which can be seen.

